

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 04954 201218Z
ACTION AF-10

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FOR: USICA FOR AF/ECA/IC, STATE FOR AF

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: N/A
SUBJECT: PSYCHOLOGICAL CLIMATE - STUDENTS

1. FOR PAST FOUR DAYS STUDENTS AT MAJOR UNIVERSITIES LAGOS, IBADAN, IFE, ILORIN, BENIN, NSUKKA AND ABU HAVE BOYCOTTED CLASSES AND HELD DEMONSTRATIONS OVER INCREASE IN BOARDING AND FEEDING FEES RECENTLY ANNOUNCED BY THE FEDERAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT (FMG). CALL FOR STUDENT ACTION WAS INITIATED BY NATIONAL UNION OF NIGERIAN STUDENTS (UNS). STUDENTS IN LAGOS TRIED TO MARCH OFF CAMPUS TO FMG HEADQUARTERS DODAN BARRACKS ON APRIL 18. CONFLICT WITH ANTI-RIOT POLICE RESULTED. POLICE ALLEGEDLY FIRED ON ONE GROUP; ONE STUDENT KILLED AND SEVERAL WOUNDED.

2. NUNS HAVE REFUSED TO HOLD DISCUSSIONS WITH NATIONAL UNIVERSITIES COMMISSION (NUC) WHICH APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED TO DEAL WITH STUDENTS. NUNS NOW PLAN SPECIAL FUNERAL CEREMONIES FOR DEAD STUDENT. SOME STUDENT PLINTER GROUPS HAVE REFUSED TO JOIN DEMONSTRATIONS BUT MAJORITY HAVE EFFECTIVELY CLOSED CAMPUSES AT UNILAG AND UNIBAD. DEMONSTRATIONS ELSEWHERE HAVE BEEN PEACEFUL, BUT DEATH OF UNILAG STUDENT MAY SPARK MORE VIOLENCE.

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3. CONTINUED STUDENT ACTION MAY ALSO AFFECT ICA PROGRAMMING. NUC EXECUTIVE SECRETARY NOW TRYING TO MEET WITH STUDENTS IS SCHEDULED TO LEAD NIGERIAN DELEGATION TO BILATERAL REUCATION/ WORKING GROUP MEETING IN WASHINGTON BEGINNING APRIL 24. SITUATION MAY AFFECT HIS DEPARTURE.

4. ALSO, IF CAMPUS CLOSURES SPREAD, ROD RODGERS DANCE
GROUP PERFORMANCES AT UNIV IFE WOULD BE AFFECTED AS WELL AS AT ANY
OTHER UNIVERSITY VENUE. NATIONAL THEATRE IN LAGOS UNAVAILABLE.
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